



5-10-1951

# Program for the Stage Production Arsenic and Old Lace

Curtain Club  
*Ursinus College*

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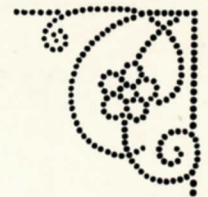
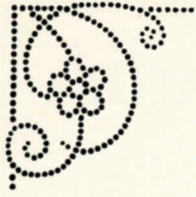
The Curtain Club  
Of  
Ursinus College

Presents



Arsenic And  
Old Lace

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THE  
CURTAIN CLUB  
OF  
URSINUS COLLEGE  
PRESENTS . . . .

**"Arsenic and Old Lace"**

by JOSEPH KESSELRING

*Under The Student Direction of*

MARJORIE TAYLOR

*With Stage Direction by*

RONALD FRANKEL

MAY 10, 11, and 12, 1951

CURTAIN — 8:30

*Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service, Inc.  
New York, N. Y.*

*Reservations: Mrs. James Crews, Collegeville 3311*

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# “ARSENIC and OLD LACE”

## — CAST —

(In Order of Their Appearance)

ABBY BREWSTER	- - - - -	Mary Lou Henry '52
THE REV. DR. HARPER	- - - - -	Douglas MacMullan '53
TEDDY BREWSTER	- - - - -	Murray Grove '51
OFFICER BROPHY	- - - - -	William Helfferich '51
OFFICER GARIBALDI	- - - - -	Gene Pascucci '52
MARTHA BREWSTER	- - - - -	Nancy Bare '51
		Jacqueline Keller '51
ELAINE HARPER	- - - - -	Marjorie Justice '51
MORTIMER BREWSTER	- - - - -	Howard Roberts '53
MR. GIBBS	- - - - -	Leonard Abel '51
JONATHAN BREWSTER	- - - - -	Harold Terres '51
DR. EINSTEIN	- - - - -	Emile Schmidt '51
OFFICER O'HARA	- - - - -	Harlan Ross '51
LIEUTENANT ROONEY	- - - - -	Bill Degerberg '51
MR. WITHERSPOON	- - - - -	Nelson Weller '51

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## SYNOPSIS OF THE SCENES

The entire action of the play takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn. Time: the present.

### ACT I

An afternoon in September

### ACT II

*That same night.*

### ACT III

SCENE 1: Later that night.

SCENE 2: Early the next morning.

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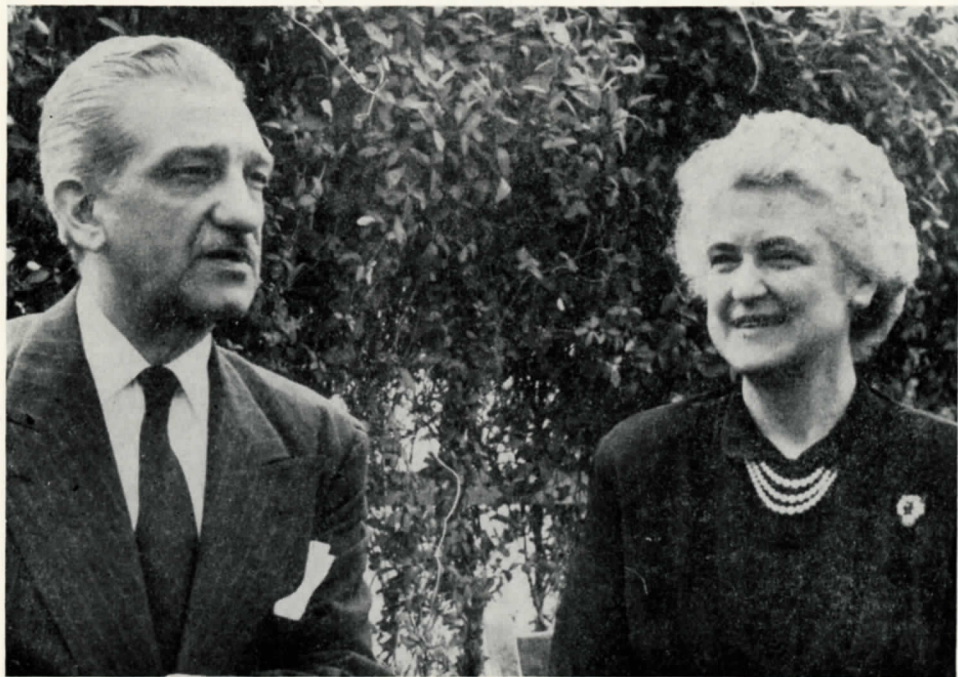
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Mr. H. is our boss. But we don't seem to mind being told how to read this line, when to put the glass on the desk, or where to stand. We realize that he is one of the best directors we have ever known and admire him more with each production.

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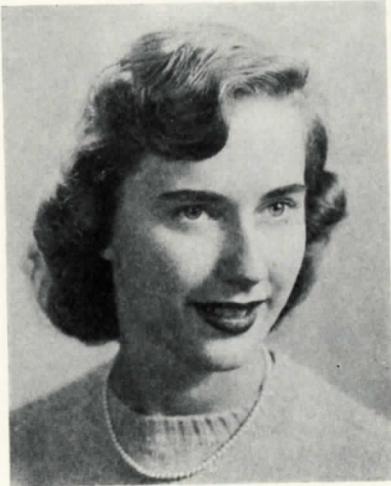
LIMERICK PENNA.

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## TONIGHT'S STUDENT DIRECTOR



Committee work comprised Marjorie Taylor's activities in the Curtain Club during her freshman and sophomore years. Last year she continued her committee work and added to it the role of the socialite daughter in *Pygmalion*. This year Marjorie was awarded for her conscientious efforts by being chosen as a member of Alpha Psi Omega. Her four years at Ursinus have been crowded with activities. Besides being secretary of the honorary social science club, Pi Gamma Mu, a junior advisor, and vice-president of her sorority in her junior year, she was selected as one of the ten outstanding seniors in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

A history major, Marjorie plans for overseas employment with the State Department or work in Washington, D. C.

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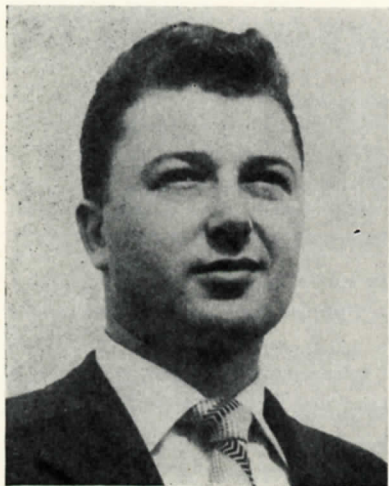
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### TONIGHT'S STAGE MANAGER



Ron Frankel, a senior, began his work for the Curtain Club by illustrating the program for the play, *You Can't Take It With You*, in his sophomore year. This past year he assisted in the two '51 Ruby shows — working backstage in *Dusty Halo* and as stage manager in *Speak Easy*. Also in *Speak Easy*, Ron capably filled the role of Willie the Weasel. Ron has lived in New York City all his life, attending the same high school, DeWitt Clinton, as Emile Schmidt did.

Aside from these stage activities, Ron is an active member of his fraternity and the Pre-Legal Society, has played on the soccer team, and done art work for the *Lantern*. He plans to enter law school.

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## WHO'S WHO AMONG THE SENIORS



LEONARD ABEL — Mr. Gibbs

Mr. Gibbs, a potential victim in this evening's play, is capably portrayed by Len Abel, a veteran of four years in the Curtain Club. Len has acted previously in *Junior Miss*, *Dusty Halo*, and *Speak Easy*. He is a member of Alpha Psi Omega and is planning to attend medical school after graduation.



NANCY BARE — Martha Brewster

An English major who plans to make teaching her career, Nancy made her debut as Henrietta in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*. Since then she has been seen in such Curtain Club successes as *Uncle Harry*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Junior Miss*, and *Speak Easy*. She was a student director for *Dusty Halo*, and prompter for *Pygmalion*, and is a member of the national dramatic fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega. Nancy will play the part of Martha Brewster on Thursday and Friday nights.



WILLIAM DEGERBERG — Lieutenant Rooney

Bill, who played the policeman in *Speak Easy*, again puts on his uniform to play Lt. Rooney, a very tough man of the law. He is an English major, a faithful and capable devotee of the Curtain Club, who has acted in *The Fourth Mrs. Phillips*, *The Will of St. James*, and *We Were Dancing*.



MURRAY GROVE — Teddy Brewster

An English major who intends to further his work at graduate school, "Buzz" has been seen in such Curtain Club productions as *The Little Foxes*, *Sweethearts*, *The Condemned*, *Dusty Halo*, and *Speak Easy*. In addition to acting in the latter two, he also wrote lyrics for the songs in both. He has been a group leader for the past two years, and is president of Alpha Psi Omega honorary dramatic fraternity.



WILLIAM HELFFERICH — Officer Brophy

Bill's portrayal of the genial policeman, Brophy, is quite a change from his last performance as the criminal in *The Condemned*. Bill has helped with the staging of various productions, is an ace athlete and business administration major who hopes to enter law school after he leaves Ursinus.





### MARJORIE JUSTICE — Elaine Harper

As Elaine, Marge takes over the romantic lead in tonight's play. A group leader this year, she has previously played in the Curtain Club productions of *Junior Miss* and *The Condemned*. Marge is a physical education major who is planning to teach after graduation.



### JACQUELINE KELLER — Martha Brewster

Jackie was first seen on the Ursinus stage as Elizabeth Barrett Browning in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, having the distinction of being the first freshman ever to hold the lead in a Curtain Club production. She has also appeared in *Riders To The Sea*, *The Will of St. James*, and *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals*. A chemistry major who is planning to teach, Jackie is also a group leader and a member of Alpha Psi Omega. She will play the part of Martha Brewster on Saturday night.



### HARLAN ROSS — Officer O'Hara

Although this is his first performance in a strictly dramatic production, "Bucky" has appeared with the 51'ers in *Dusty Halo* and *Speak Easy*. He is an English major with experience in both radio and television and hopes to enter this field after graduation.



### EMILE SCHMIDT — Dr. Einstein

Emile has been in practically every major Curtain Club production at Ursinus and has played every type of role from Cal, the Negro butler, in *The Little Foxes*, to the Scotch Inspector Rough in the recent production of *Angel Street*. He was co-author, director, and actor in the two original musical productions this year, *Dusty Halo* and *Speak Easy*. Emile is president of the Curtain Club, a member of Alpha Psi Omega, and an English major who hopes to make the theater his profession.



### HAROLD TERRES — Jonathan Brewster

Although this is Hal's first appearance on the Ursinus stage, he has had previous acting experience in high school and in the armed forces. Hal is a business administration major who plans to enter law school this fall.



### NELSON WELLER — Mr. Witherspoon

In this evening's play Nels, as Mr. Witherspoon, has the responsibility of separating the sane from the not-so-sane. He has previously appeared in such productions as *The Mikado*, *Springtime*, *Speak Easy*, and *Fright*. A physics major, Nels is contemplating the ministry as his vocation.



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## UNDERGRADUATES OF TONIGHT'S PLAY



MARY LOU HENRY — Abby Brewster

Mary Lou, a junior this year is performing for the first time on the Ursinus stage. Previously she has been on the program committee for the Curtain Club's *Gloria Mundi* and on the properties committee for *The Condemned*. She is a history-social studies major preparing for a teaching career



DOUGLAS MACMULLAN — Dr. Harper

This is Doug's first experience in a Curtain Club production. Doug is a sophomore and a writer for the *Weekly* and *Lantern* publications. He is an English major and a member of the English Club and French Club.



GENE PASCUCCI — Garibaldi

This is Gene's initial part in Curtain Club productions. A junior and business administration major, Gene is co-business manager of the *Lantern*, a member of the *Weekly* sports staff, Varsity Club, Pre-Legal Society, and the Ruby. He is also on the football and wrestling teams.



HOWARD ROBERTS — Mortimer Brewster

Howard, a sophomore, starred in the fall production of *Angel Street* and participated in his group play, *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals*. Among his activities on campus are the spirit committee, football, and wrestling. Howard is a political science major.



IRENE SCHWEITZER — Prompter

This is Irene's first year as a participating member of the Curtain Club. She has shown her versatility by doing committee work for *Angel Street* and the group productions, *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals* and *Fright*. Irene is a sophomore this year.

## BEHIND THE SCENES



*Left to Right Top: Graf, Lintner, Davis, Poore, Powell  
Bottom: Simmindinger, Crawford, Stewart, Kuebler, Fite*

### PUBLICITY

Posters, newspaper articles, the circulating of printed bills, loud-speaker announcements — all the problems of making a production well-known were faced by chairman Jeanne Stewart '52 and her Publicity Committee members, Sally Canan '53, Barabara Crawford '52, Doris Fite '52, Dick Hector '53, Dick Kizonas '52, Barbara Kuebler '54, James Scott '53, and Mary Ann Simmendinger '53.

### WARDROBE

Collecting a century of styles from Abby's and Martha's Victorian dresses, through Teddy's Prince Albert coat, to Elaine's modern clothes, making white handkerchiefs, and finding high-buttoned shoes were a few of the problems dealt with by chairmen Jonni Graf '52 and Herm Lintner '52 and their Wardrobe Committee, Rhoda Blumenthal '52, Bob Davis '53, Janice Pastorius '54, Bill Poore '52, and Barbara Powell '54.

### PROGRAM

Writing interviews, making up a layout, and the difficult task of collecting people together for photographs faced the Program Committee headed by Dolores DeSola '53 and Marjorie Mersfelder '53 and including Jean Benson '54, Sally Canan '53, Janie Everhart '53, Joan Higgins '54, Mary Ann Townsend '53, Connie Zimmermann '54, and Bill Beckly '52, photographer.



*Left to Right Top: Hector Higgins, Everhart, Zimmermann, Blumenthal  
Bottom: Townsend, Mersfelder, DeSola*

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### LIGHTING

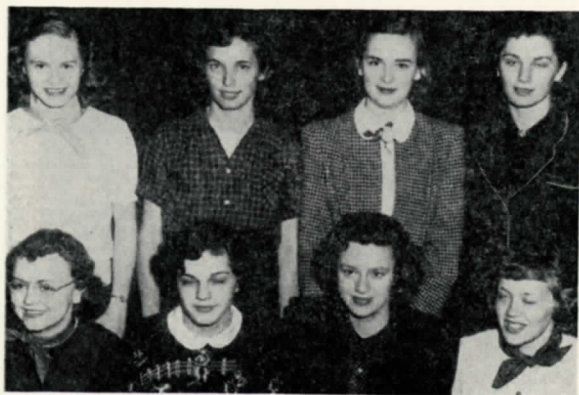
The appropriate lighting effects, dim and bright, colored and white, footlights and spotlights were handled capably by chairman Ed Sella '54 and his Lighting Committee of Marna Feldt '53, Russ Lord '51, and Tony Wright '54.



*Left to Right Top: Lord, Frankel, Carson, L. Frankel, Winther, Myers, Sella  
Bottom: Feldt, Melnick, Test, Wright, Staurowsky*

### STAGING

An exact replica of the Broadway Stage Production, with secret ladders, hidden curtains, and a newly constructed flight of stairs was the aim of the Staging Committee under the chairmanship of Ron Frankel '51, with Ed Abramson '54, Joe Beardwood '51, Dick Carson '51, Lionel Frankel '53, Niki Melnick '54, Ben Myers '51, Bobbi Samler '54, Frank Staurowsky '51, Gordon Tait '53, Mizz Test '54, and Dave Winther '52.



*Left to Right Top: Lynn, Daniels, Thompson, Morell  
Bottom: Diehl, Everhart, Hall, Powell*

### PROPERTIES

Wine glasses, half-pint flasks, biscuits, blue legal papers, Teddy's solar hat, Abby's garnet ring, and dirt for Jonathan's and Einstein's clothes were acquired by the Properties Committee under chairman Molly Hall '52, with Adele Boyd '53, Janie Everhart '53, Glenna Faust '54, Pat Frey '54, Ila Jane Lyon '53, Nancy Morrell '54 and Doris Thompson '54.



## BEHIND THE SCENES



Left to Right Top: Beardwood, Foster, Rauenzahn  
Bottom: Bornemann, Wilson, Deitz

### BUSINESS

Selling advertisements for the program, getting tickets printed and sold, the prosaic task of managing money were the problems that confronted the business committee headed capably by Joe Beardwood '51, with Marna Feldt '53, Roy Foster '51, Carol Lucas '53, Ray Rauenzahn '53, and Mary Ann Simmendinger '53. Tonight's ushers are Louise Bournemann '51, Susie Deitz '51, Kathy Haney '51, and Ginny Wilson '51.

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## CURTAIN CLUB ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

The Curtain Club is one of the most active and popular clubs on the Ursinus Campus. This year the club has attained a membership of 131 active participants. Emile Schmidt, the president of the club, has helped to make the organization's various activities of the 1950-1951 term some of the most successful ones ever produced by the Curtain Club.

The year was begun with a musical written and produced by Emile Schmidt '51 and Joe Beardwood '51. Heading the cast of *Dusty Halo* were Murray Grove '51, Kathy Haney '51, and Roy Foster '51. Ursinus students showed their ability to create and produce their own musical.

*Angel Street* was the play chosen for the annual fall production of the Curtain Club. Jonni Graf '52, Howard Roberts '53, and Emile Schmidt '51 proved to the audience that college students are capable of producing excellent drama.

The Curtain Club this year has been divided into four groups. The Stage Trotters headed by Jackie Keller '51 and Marjorie Paynter '51 presented an excellent one-act play entitled *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals*. Jackie, in the title role, upheld her reputation as an excellent actress. New talent is in store for the audiences of the Curtain Club during the next few years. Ed Sella '54 and Sally Shaaf '54 made very successful debuts in this group production.

The great success of *Dusty Halo* prompted Emile and Joe to write another successful musical, *Speak Easy*. Nancy Bare '51, Roy Foster '51, Murray Grove '51, and Kathy Haney '51 headed the cast, while the original musical score was written by Aubre Givler '51.

*The Condemned* was the next activity of the Curtain Club. It was an excellent one-act drama co-starring Marge Justice '51 and Bill Helfferich '51.

The remaining two groups of the Curtain Club combined their talents and presented a double feature for the Ursinus students. A light comedy, *Suppressed Desires*, directed by Jonni Graf '52, introduced Rhoda Blumenthal '52, Ed Abramson '54, and Barbara Powel '54 to the Ursinus stage. Contrasting this comedy Susie Deitz '51 and Bill Degerberg '51 produced *Fright*, a drama. James Scott '53 and Jeanne Stewart '52 headed the cast.

Tonight's performance will climax the Curtain Club's activities for this year. But everyone will anxiously be looking forward to more wonderful productions next year.

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